

proudly introduced this resolution with my colleague and fellow co-chair of the Everglades Caucus, Representative MARIO DIAZ-BALART.

I applaud Representative DIAZ-BALART for his commitment to working together to preserve and restore the Everglades.

I thank the chairman of the Committee on Natural Resources, Representative NICK RAHALL, a true champion of protecting our Nation's natural resources, especially our majestic national parks, for his support for protecting Florida's environment.

I also would like to thank the ranking member of the Committee, Representative DON YOUNG, for his support as well.

The bipartisan support this resolution enjoys is reminiscent of the past and present bipartisan support Everglades restoration efforts enjoy.

Today we honor the 60th anniversary of Everglades National Park. The park, which spans 3 million acres of wetlands, is habitat to many endangered species and is an international center for business, agriculture, and tourism.

Our work to restore the Everglades is the largest restoration effort of its kind in history.

As a fifth generation Floridian and great grandson of a Creek Indian, my passion for these majestic wetlands extends back to my birth.

I have seen species that have since become endangered, and a living ecosystem that has since been degraded by management and development activities.

Regrettably, since the passage of landmark legislation in 2000, restoration efforts in Congress have been mired. Now the Everglades is paying a hefty price for Federal delays. Expected project completion timeframes have been shifted, and the restoration price tags increased.

With new perspectives and new priorities, Congress is again reaffirming our commitment to the Everglades.

Just last November, Congress overrode a President Bush veto and passed the Water Resources Development Act of 2007, authorizing \$1.8 billion in Everglades restoration funding.

As we pause to celebrate the anniversary of the Everglades National Park today, we enhance our vigilant efforts to restore the park to the pristine ecosystem it once was.

I thank the leadership of the House for their work on this bill, and urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Ms. CASTOR. Mr. Speaker, "Here are no lofty peaks seeking the sky, no mighty glaciers or rushing streams wearing away the uplifted land. Here is land, tranquil in its quiet beauty, serving not as the source of water, but as the receiver of it. To its natural abundance we owe the spectacular plant and animal life that distinguishes this place from all others in our country."

These were the words of Harry Truman, 60 years ago at the dedication of the Everglades National Park. And it is in the same spirit that I support H. Res. 845, recognizing the 60th anniversary of Everglades National Park. The Everglades are a completely unique treasure for Floridians, and all Americans. So it is fitting that they should also be unique in the national park system. The Everglades were the first unit of the park system to be designated not for their scenic beauty alone, but for the extraordinary diversity of their wildlife.

One of the largest bodies of fresh water in the United States, Lake Okeechobee, sits at

the top of the Everglades. During the wet season, Okeechobee slowly pours water over its southern edge, and it flows out in a slow flood that slides south and spreads out over hundreds of square miles. The water flows south, but very slowly, sometimes as little as a hundred feet in a day. And it is remarkably shallow, as little as a foot in depth, which allows the incredible diversity of plant and animal life, unrivaled in the Nation.

In 1947, when Marjory Stoneman Douglas published "Everglades: River of Grass" and Harry Truman dedicated the Everglades as part of the parks system, it was with the intention of preserving the Everglades for future generations. Douglas continued to fight for the Everglades for the rest of her life, and she led an ever growing chorus of voices, advocating for our environment. The Everglades became a touchstone for an entire movement of Floridians and other Americans who continue to fight to save our natural places, not only for future generations, but also for their own sake.

Unfortunately, the Everglades still faces threats of the attrition of development, and the redirection of its waters. In the Water Resources Development Plan of 2000, Congress included a comprehensive restoration plan to bring the Everglades back to its natural state. The Everglades remain one of the Nation's greatest natural treasures, and I am proud to stand in recognition today of their 60th anniversary as part of the park system.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 845, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF MARJORY STONEMAN DOUGLAS, CHAMPION OF THE FLORIDA EVERGLADES AND FOUNDER OF FLORIDA'S ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 807) honoring the life of Marjory Stoneman Douglas, champion of the Florida Everglades and founder of Florida's environmental movement, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

#### H. RES. 807

Whereas Marjory Stoneman Douglas was born on April 7, 1890, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, the daughter of Frank Stoneman, the first publisher of the Miami Herald;

Whereas Marjory Stoneman Douglas graduated from Wellesley College in 1912 where she was a member of the literary group Scribblers, editor-in-chief of the yearbook, and served on the executive board of the Equal Suffrage League;

Whereas Marjory Stoneman Douglas served in the Red Cross in Europe during World War I;

Whereas Marjory Stoneman Douglas moved to Miami in 1915 and became a reporter and writer at The Miami Herald where she wrote about progressive issues such as the fight for women's rights, racial justice, and environmental conservation;

Whereas Marjory Stoneman Douglas wrote dozens of short stories that were published in the Saturday Evening Post, Collier's, and Woman's Home Companion throughout the 1920s, 30s, and 40s;

Whereas in 1947 Marjory Stoneman Douglas wrote a ground-breaking book titled The Everglades: River of Grass that helped to draw national attention to a vast and little-known area that South Florida developers had deemed a worthless swamp;

Whereas in the same year, Marjory Stoneman Douglas' book mustered the public support to guard this subtropical marshland through a declaration from President Harry Truman, officially protecting the Everglades as a National Park;

Whereas at the age of 78, Marjory Stoneman Douglas founded the Friends of the Everglades, an educational and advocacy group dedicated to the protection and restoration of this ecosystem that continues to be at forefront of Florida conservation;

Whereas in November 1993, President Bill Clinton awarded Marjory Stoneman Douglas the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest honor given to a civilian;

Whereas 2007 marked the 60th anniversary of the publication of her book, The Everglades: River of Grass; and

Whereas Marjory Stoneman Douglas passed away in 1998 living to the age of 108, her ashes scattered in the Everglades she worked so tirelessly to preserve: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives honors the life, achievements, and distinguished career of Marjory Stoneman Douglas, pioneer in the field of conservation, on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the publication of The Everglades: River of Grass.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from West Virginia?

There was no objection.

□ 1430

Mr. RAHALL. Following on the heels of the resolution just considered by the House, this resolution honors the life, accomplishments, and distinguished career of Marjory Stoneman Douglas, the "Grande Dame of the Everglades," on the 60th anniversary of the publication of her book, The Everglades: River of Grass. House Resolution 807 was introduced by our colleague from Florida, Representative ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, and is cosponsored by every member of the Florida delegation.

Marjory Stoneman Douglas was an author, journalist, and environmental conservationist, best known for her advocacy for the preservation of the Florida Everglades. Her best known work, *The Everglades: River of Grass*, is considered a classic example of environmental writing and is credited with bolstering public support for preserving the Everglades as a National Park.

I support passage of H. Res. 807 and urge its adoption by the House.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I also rise in support of House Resolution 807 and yield myself such time as I may consume.

This resolution has been well explained by the chairman, and I would also like to commend the Congresswoman from Florida (Ms. ROSLEHTINEN) for her work on this resolution. What is most extraordinary about Marjory Stoneman Douglas is that she did not take a central role the Everglades fight until she was 78, an age when most people begin to settle into their retirement, and she would continue her fight for another 30 years, until the age of 108.

I urge the adoption of this resolution.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 807, a resolution honoring the life of Marjory Stoneman Douglas, champion of the Florida Everglades and founder of Florida's environmental movement. I am proud to have introduced this resolution with my colleague and good friend, Representative ILEANA ROSLEHTINEN. I share Representative ROSLEHTINEN's desire to recognize and commemorate the significance of Marjory Stoneman Douglas's lifelong work to promote awareness of the need to protect and conserve Florida and the entire Nation's natural resources.

As co-chair of the Everglades Caucus, I particularly share Ms. Douglas's passionate commitment to restoring the River of Grass to the pristine ecosystem it once was.

Ms. Douglas deserves much credit for raising awareness of the importance of these majestic wetlands and making restoration efforts a national priority. In 1947 she wrote the infamous book, *"The Everglades: River of Grass,"* which helped draw national attention to the Everglades. This book is responsible for initiating public support for President Harry Truman's 1947 declaration officially protecting the Everglades as a national park. Today, this book serves as the "bible" for all Everglades supporters and environmental activists around the world.

Ms. Douglas is also responsible for founding the Friends of the Everglades, an educational and advocacy group dedicated to the protection and restoration of the Everglades. Through the group's ecosystem conservation efforts, Ms. Douglas's legacy lives on.

This resolution enjoys bipartisan support from every Member of the Florida delegation. The support this resolution enjoys indicates the respect our delegation has for Ms. Douglas's lifelong work and the impact of her contributions on the entire State of Florida.

I am proud to join Representative ROSLEHTINEN in introducing this bipartisan resolution and pledge to carry on Ms. Douglas's leg-

acy effort by continuing to champion Everglades restoration efforts in Congress.

I urge my colleagues to adopt this excellent resolution.

Ms. CASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H. Res. 807, honoring the life of Marjory Stoneman Douglas, champion of the Florida Everglades, and founder of Florida's environmental movement. Marjory Stoneman Douglas's life was dedicated to the idea that my State of Florida, and indeed the United States has a great treasure in the Everglades, unlike any other in the world. When others were looking at the land of the Everglades with the hope of draining away the water, and building on the land, Marjory Stoneman Douglas allowed all of us to see Florida the way she saw it, in its utterly unique natural majesty. When she spoke, it was with the voice of the Everglades, and the natural places of Florida.

Marjory Stoneman Douglas was a tireless advocate since her youth, writing as a voice for the voiceless and downtrodden, and fighting for equality of people of all races, genders, and for the conservation of the natural places. But it was not until she was almost 60 years old, that she wrote *"Everglades: River of Grass."* That book, in the simplicity, beauty and depth of its prose, opened the eyes of America to the significance of the Everglades, and the great danger of allowing that treasure to be squandered. Marjory Stoneman Douglas wrote *"Everglades: River of Grass in 1947."* By December of that year, the Everglades had been dedicated as a part of the National Parks System.

Marjory Stoneman Douglas devoted her life to preserving the Everglades she had first helped to bring into American consciousness. She fought to prevent shortsighted development that would have permanently damaged the Everglades, and to restore the park to its former majesty. In her autobiography, she wrote that "Since 1972, I've been going around making speeches on the Everglades. No matter how poor my eyes are I can still talk. I'll talk about the Everglades at the drop of a hat. Whoever wants me to talk, I'll come over and tell them about the necessity of preserving the Everglades."

She began *"Everglades: River of Grass"* by writing, "there are no other Everglades in the world. They are, they have always been, one of the unique regions of the earth." In the same way, there was only one Marjory Stoneman Douglas. She was a unique individual, in the conservation movement, and we in Florida, and in the United States, owe her a great debt. We are proud to honor her life and her work today.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RAHALL. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 807, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## ORCHARD DETENTION BASIN FLOOD CONTROL ACT

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 816) to provide for the release of certain land from the Sunrise Mountain Instant Study Area in the State of Nevada and to grant a right-of-way across the released land for the construction and maintenance of a flood control project, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 816

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the "Orchard Detention Basin Flood Control Act".*

### SEC. 2. RELEASE OF CERTAIN LAND IN THE SUNRISE MOUNTAIN INSTANT STUDY AREA.

(a) *FINDING.*—Congress finds that the land described in subsection (c) has been adequately studied for wilderness designation under section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1782).

(b) *RELEASE.*—The land described in subsection (c)—

(1) is no longer subject to section 603(c) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1782(c)); and

(2) shall be managed in accordance with—

(A) land management plans adopted under section 202 of that Act (43 U.S.C. 1712); and

(B) cooperative conservation agreements in existence on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) *DESCRIPTION OF LAND.*—The land referred to in subsections (a) and (b) is the approximately 65 acres of land in the Sunrise Mountain Instant Study Area of Clark County, Nevada, that is—

(1) known as the "Orchard Detention Basin"; and

(2) designated for release on the map titled "Orchard Detention Basin" and dated March 18, 2005.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia.

### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from West Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. RAHALL. The pending measure was introduced by our colleague from Nevada, Representative JON PORTER. It authorizes the release of a 65-acre section of the Sunrise Mountain Instant Study Area from wilderness study, to be used for construction and maintenance of a floodwater retention basin, known as the Orchard Detention Basin Project.

The proposed Orchard Detention Basin Project is a part of the Clark County Regional Flood Control District's master plan to protect the rapidly growing Las Vegas Valley. The